

**2013-2014 U.S. EMBASSY/CONSULATE
SUMMARY SCHOOL INFORMATION**

Foreign Service Post: Canberra

Date: July 2013

**Frequently Asked Questions About Finding a School in the
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)**

Q: Where do I start?

A: The best place to start is with the ACT Government Department of Education and Training website, <http://www.det.act.gov.au/home>. It will give you a list of Government (Public) and Non-Government (Independent and Catholic Schools) Schools in the ACT and their contact information. It also has information about curriculum, literacy, numeracy, and additional information that will be helpful in finding a school that meets your needs.

Another helpful website is www.aussieeducator.org.au. This site provides a wealth of information and links to education in Australia, including Special Education, Gifted and Talented, home schooling, etc., for the entire country.

If you are interested in a Catholic School, the best place to start is with the Office of Catholic Education, www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au. The website has a list of schools and their contact information.

Q: How do I know how schools compare to other schools?

A: Go to www.myschool.edu.au. This site enables you to search local schools in a specific area and compare statistically similar schools, and review NAPLAN* results.

Please note that the data on My School is only a snapshot of the schools and the result of one standardized test. It does not reflect other important data about a school, such as sense of community, the support of the students from the teachers, parent rating, extra-curricular opportunities, parental involvement, etc. It is one piece of information and should not be replaced by a visit to the school.

*Every year, all students in years 3, 5, 7, and 9 are assessed on the same day using national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar, and Punctuations), and Numeracy (Mathematics). The test is called the National Assessment Plan Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). For more information, their website is www.nap.edu.au.

Q: Where can I find additional information?

A: The Department of State Post Report has general information about Dependent Education at Post and can be found on the State Department website.

Additionally, in March 2010, the Regional Education Officer (REO), Constance Buford visited Canberra and made observations of her visit. She toured seven schools and met with administrators and faculty at each of these schools. She also met with officials from the ACT Department of Education and Training. Her results are in a memorandum to the Files of American Embassy Canberra. (Not sure where this really is) The schools she visited were Brindabella Christian College, Canberra Girls Grammar School,

Canberra Grammar School, Daramalan College, Garran Primary School, Harrison Primary School, and Radford College.

Q: Can the Embassy recommend a school?

A: The CLO cannot endorse any particular school. They can, however, provide information that will help you find what you need to make the best decision for your family. They can tell you which schools currently have American families enrolled, they can provide you with contact information for Government and Non-Government schools in Canberra, and they can answer general information about the schools system in Canberra. Everyone has different priorities and personal expectations in what they are looking for in the education of their child. There are some good schools in Canberra. With research and patience; you will find what school best fits your family.

Q: If I find a school I like, what do I need to do to get my child enrolled in that school?

A: If you find Government School that you are interested in, you should indicate the name of the school when completing your Housing Survey. The Housing Board will do what they can to find a house in that district if possible. Please note that if you have a specific request, the sooner you can let Post know your preference, the more time they will have to try and meet your housing needs. If you have a child with special needs, it is important that you indicate that on your Housing Survey that you want a specific area for that reason. For more information on Special Education, see the Special Education section of this document. (? – Not sure how to reference this)

If you find a Non-Government School you are interested in, you need to apply directly to that school. Unfortunately, the American Embassy does not have any priority enrollment. If there are no vacancies at the school, they might not be able to place your child and you should have an alternative school in mind. You should also indicate your school preference on your Housing Survey so that suitable housing can be found in the general area of that school.

A snapshot of the schools our children attend:

Aranda Primary: <http://www.arandaps.act.edu.au/>
Arawang Primary: <http://www.arawangps.act.edu.au/>
Arden Anglican: <http://www.arden.nsw.edu.au/>
Brindabella Christian College: [Brindabella Christian College](#)
Burgmann Anglican School: <http://www.burgmann.act.edu.au/>
Canberra Girls Grammar School: [Canberra Girls' Grammar School](#)
Canberra Grammar School: [Canberra Grammar School - Home](#)
Daramalan College: <http://www.daramalan.act.edu.au/>
Dickson: <http://www.dicksonc.act.edu.au/>
Emmaus Christian: www.emmaus.act.edu.au/
Evatt Primary: <http://www.evattps.act.edu.au/>
Forrest: <http://www.forrestps.act.edu.au/>
Garran Primary: www.garranps.act.edu.au/
Gold Creek Primary School: [Gold Creek School | Home](#)
Good Shepherd Primary School, Amaroo: www.gslps.vic.edu.au/
Gungahlin College: www.gungahlincollege.act.edu.au
Harrison Primary: www.harrison.act.edu.au/
Holy Spirit: <http://www.holyspirit.act.edu.au/>
Jerrabonberra Primary: <http://www.jerra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/>
Lake Ginninderra Secondary College: www.lakeonline.act.edu.au/
Lake Tuggeranong College: [Lake Tuggeranong College | Home](#)
Lanyon High: <http://www.lanyonhs.act.edu.au/>
Melba Copeland College: <http://www.mcss.act.edu.au/>
Marist College: <http://www.maristc.act.edu.au/>
Narrabundah College: [Narrabundah College](#)
Rosary Primary School: <http://www.rosary.act.edu.au/>